

**IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE**

International Application No. : PCT/EP2003/002358  
International Filing Date : 07 March 2003 (07.03.2003)  
Priority Date(s) Claimed : 07 March 2002 (07.03.2002)  
Applicant(s) (DO/EO/US) : Masayuki KAWAKAMI, et al.

Title: NEAR INFRARED FLUORESCENT CONTRAST AGENT AND METHOD FOR  
FLUORESCENCE IMAGING

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

Prior to calculating the national fee, and prior to examination in the National Phase of the above-identified International application, please amend as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.